

EXHIBIT 8

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

READING ROOM

FBI

Date 26 June 2001

Name Thomas & Marcia Mitchell
(Please Print)

b6

Address

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(S)

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FBI/DOJ

April 11, 2011

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Record/Information Dissemination Section
170 Marcel Drive
Winchester, VA 22602-4483
Fax: (540) 868-4997

Dear FBI:


This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I hereby request all file numbers and corresponding files in your custody pertaining to Judith Coplon (May 17, 1921 - February 26, 2011).

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,



Stephen Underhill




b6

Judith Coplon

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Judith Coplon Socolov (May 17, 1921 – February 26, 2011)^[1] was one of the first major figures tried in the United States for spying for the former Soviet Union; problems in her trials in 1949-1950 had a profound influence on espionage prosecutions during the McCarthy era.

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Career

Work and arrest

Coplon obtained a job in the Department of Justice shortly after she graduated from Barnard College, *cum laude* in 1943.^[2] She transferred to the Foreign Agents Registration section in 1944, where she had access to counter-intelligence information, and was allegedly recruited as a spy by the NKGB at the end of 1944.^[3]

She first came to the attention of the FBI as a result of a Venona message in late 1948. Coplon was known in both Soviet intelligence and the Venona files as "SIMA". She was the first person tried as a result of the Venona project—although, for reasons of security, the Venona information was not revealed at her trial. FBI Special Agent Robert Lamphere testified at her trial that suspicion had fallen on Coplon because of information from a reliable "confidential informant".^[4]

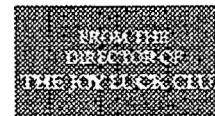
An extensive counter-intelligence operation planted a secret document for her to pass to the Soviets. FBI agents detained Coplon in March, 1949 as she met with Valentin Gubitchev, a KGB official employed by the United Nations, while carrying what she believed were secret U.S. government documents in her purse.^{[4][3]}

Trials and appeals

Coplon was convicted in two separate trials, one for espionage in 1949, and another for conspiracy along

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March 1, 2011

Judith Coplon, Haunted by Espionage Case, Dies at 89

By SAM ROBERTS

Judith Socolov, who as a diminutive Barnard graduate named Judith Coplon was convicted of espionage more than 60 years ago after embracing a utopian vision of communism and falling in love with a Soviet agent, died Saturday in Manhattan. She was 89.

Her death was confirmed by her daughter, Emily Socolov. A longtime Brooklyn resident, the elder Ms. Socolov had been living in the Bronx.

Judith Coplon was a 5-foot-tall, 27-year-old political analyst for the Justice Department when she was arrested by the F.B.I. in 1949 with the Soviet agent Valentin A. Gubitchev on a Manhattan street corner. She had been identified from intercepted Soviet cables.

But her convictions for espionage in 1949 and for conspiracy (with Mr. Gubitchev) in 1950 were overturned — in one case because federal agents overheard conversations with her lawyer, and in the other because she was arrested on probable cause but without a warrant.

Still, the United States Court of Appeals concluded that “her guilt is plain,” and Soviet documents released years later supported that conclusion.

“She was a very high priority to the F.B.I.,” John Earl Haynes, a cold war historian at the Library of Congress, said on Monday, “because she was clearly in a Justice Department office, the Foreign Agents Registration Section, that was receiving the F.B.I.’s own counterespionage reports.”

While her appeals were pending, Ms. Coplon (pronounced COPE-lon) married one of her lawyers, Albert Socolov, a decorated D-Day veteran. The court restricted their honeymoon to within 100 miles of New York City.

After the verdicts were reversed, Ms. Coplon — now Ms. Socolov — lived in obscurity, raising four children, earning a master's degree in education, publishing bilingual books, tutoring women in prison in creative writing, and, with her husband, running two Mexican restaurants in Manhattan (the Beach House in TriBeCa and Alameda on the Upper West Side).

Ms. Socolov refused to discuss her relationship with Mr. Gubitchev, a Russian working at the United Nations, or her legal ordeal. "The subject of her innocence or guilt was something that she would strictly not address," Emily Socolov said.

"It's very hair-raising to read about your mother being given a code name and moved around like a chess piece," the daughter added. "Was she a spy? I think it's another question that I ask: Was she part of a community that felt that they were going to bring, by their actions, an age of peace and justice and an equal share for all and the abolishing of color lines and class lines?"

"If these were things that she actually did, she was not defining them as espionage," Ms. Socolov continued. "If you feel that what you're doing answers to a higher ideal, it's not treason."

Judith Coplon was born in Brooklyn on May 17, 1921, the daughter of Samuel and Rebecca Moroh Coplon, a toy manufacturer and milliner, respectively. Her great-grandfather, a peddler who had emigrated from Prussia, was a prisoner during the Civil War at Andersonville, the infamous Confederate prison camp.

Ms. Coplon won a good-citizenship award in high school and a full scholarship to Barnard, where she majored in history and was a member of the Young Communist League. She graduated cum laude in 1943, joined the Justice Department in 1944 and, according to the government, was recruited by Soviet intelligence later that year.

In 1948, after intercepting a secret three-year-old Soviet cable, the Venona project, which monitored and decoded Soviet diplomatic communications, identified Ms. Coplon as an agent

code-named Sima. She "will be able to carry out important work for us in throwing light" on United States counterintelligence, the Soviet cable said.

To snare her, the F.B.I. fed her a false memorandum about atomic power, then followed her in Manhattan on March 30, 1949, with 30 agents and a fleet of radio cars. After she made a series of evasive maneuvers by subway and bus, she and Mr. Gubitchev were arrested under the Third Avenue elevated line in Midtown. Several secret documents, including the faked memo, were confiscated.

"I was never and am not a Communist," Ms. Coplon later declared. "The only crime I can be said to be guilty of is that I knew a Russian."

She said she had met Mr. Gubitchev at the Museum of Modern Art and fallen in love with him, only to learn he was married. "I will always say that I'm innocent and that I'm being framed," she testified.

In 1952, after winning the right to a new trial, she remained free on \$40,000 bail. The bail money was not returned until 1967, when the Justice Department formally dropped the case.

For years, though, the charges haunted her. "If she felt somebody was looking at her askance or treating her disparagingly," Emily Socolov said, "she thought about that case."

Ms. Socolov emerged in 1981 to defend her husband against accusations that money he had invested for a client was drug-related. He was acquitted.

Mr. Socolov survives her. Besides her daughter, Ms. Coplon is also survived by three sons, Benjamin, William and Daniel; and four grandchildren.

In their book about the case, "The Spy Who Seduced America," Marcia and Thomas Mitchell wrote that in 1994 Albert Socolov continued to insist that his wife was innocent. But for 60 years the couple shunned publicity.

"We've had all kinds of requests for interviews, for books, but it has been our steady policy to refuse," Mr. Socolov told The New York Times a decade ago. "Other people are interested in posterity. We're not."

David Binder contributed reporting.

This article has been revised to reflect the following correction:

Correction: March 3, 2011

An obituary and a headline on Wednesday about Judith Coplon, a former Justice Department analyst who was convicted of espionage, misstated her age, and the obituary also misstated her birth date. She was 89, not 88, and she was born on May 17, 1921 — not on May 17, 1922.

U.S. Department of Justice



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

July 20, 2011

MR. STEPHEN UNDERHILL



b6

FOIPA Request No.: 1164315- 000
Subject: COPLON, JUDITH

Dear Mr. Underhill:

This is in reference to your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request.

We have located an estimated amount of 10,433 pages which are potentially responsive to your request. Pursuant to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) regulations, 28 C.F.R. §§ 16.11 and 16.49, there is a duplication fee of ten cents per page if you receive a paper copy. Releases are also available on CD upon request. Each CD contains approximately 500 pages per release. The 500 page estimate is based on our business practice of processing medium and large track cases through interim releases that generally equal approximately 500 pages. The first 100 pages of duplication, or the cost equivalent (\$10.00) for releases on CD, will be provided to you at no charge. In accordance with the DOJ regulations, the FBI notifies requesters when anticipated fees exceed \$25.00. If all of the pages that are potentially responsive to your request are released, you will owe \$1,033.30 in duplication fees to receive a paper copy or \$305.00 (21 CD's at \$15.00 less \$10.00) to receive the release on a CD. Please remember this is only an estimate, and if some of the pages are withheld in full pursuant to FOIA/Privacy Act exemption(s) or are determined to not be responsive to your request, the actual charges could be less.

To accelerate the processing of your request, you may wish to consider reducing the scope of your request so that it will fall within one of the smaller queues. This may allow you to lower your search and duplication costs and hasten the receipt of your information. The FBI uses a three-queue system as a way to fairly assign and process new requests. The placement of a request in one of the three queues depends on the total number of pages responsive to that request - 500 pages or less (small queue), 501 pages to 2500 pages (medium queue), or more than 2500 pages (large queue). The small queue has the fastest rate of processing. Please let us know in writing if you are interested in discussing the possibility of reducing the scope of your request, as well as your willingness to pay the estimated search and duplication costs indicated in the above paragraph. Your written response should provide a telephone number where you can be reached between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., EST, if one is available. Please send this response to: Work Process Unit, Record Information/Dissemination Section, Records Management Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602. You may also fax your response to the following number: 540-868-4997, Attention: Work Process Unit.

No payment is required at this time. However, you must notify us in writing within thirty (30) days from the date of this letter of your format decision (paper or CD) and your commitment to pay the estimated fee. If we do not receive your commitment to pay within thirty (30) days of the date of this notification, your request will be closed. Please include the FOIPA Request Number listed above in any communication regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy".

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

U.S. Department of Justice



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

August 31, 2011

MR. STEPHEN UNDERHILL



b6

FOIPA Request No.: '1164315- 000
Subject: COPLON, JUDITH

Dear Mr. Underhill:

Reference is made to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIPA) request for FBI files concerning Judith Coplon. This letter will serve to document your telephone conversation with my representative, [redacted] on August 26, 2011.

[redacted] explained to you that your request was currently in the large track of our multi-track backlog of unassigned FOIA requests. This track contains requests for records in excess of 2,500 pages and assignments from this queue to our FOIA Processing Units are typically delayed for a significant amount of time. [redacted] indicated the FBI located approximately 21,250 pages related to your subject and you were offered the opportunity to reduce the scope of your request in order to accelerate its assignment of processing. You indicated to [redacted] that you were interested in reducing the scope of your request. You advised [redacted] that you would like the main file sections 1 - 13, and 15 and file number 121-HQ-15051 processed. Also, you indicated that you were not interested in the EBFs (subfiles) at this time. The approximate page count is now 2,472 pages. This moves your request to the medium track backlog and will accelerate the assignment to our FOIA Processing Units. Please keep in mind that any additional requests for the subject would be handled as a new request and placed at the end of the unassigned backlog based on its date of receipt.

In addition, our fees were discussed and you indicated that you would like the documents placed on CDs. [redacted] explained to you that your request would be released as interim releases of 500 pages per CD and you agreed to pay all fees associated with your request.

We certainly appreciate your consideration in this matter and solicit your continued patience. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to telephone [redacted] at [redacted].

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Hardy".

David M. Hardy

Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division
